

# Outta Control

## News & Views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BAC, WRITE: BAC, c/o 7 MINET AVERN ST., BELFAST.



OUTTA CONTROL ... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches .... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of FREE association and self-management. This paper comes out every four weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

## NO-WASH PROTEST ENDS HUNGER STRIKE BEGINS!

A second hunger strike has begun, with Bobby Sands, who is serving 14 years for possession of a gun, refusing food on Sunday, March 1st. He will be joined later by others including it is thought, 2 of the previous women hunger strikers from Armagh.

On March 2nd the 460 blanket men and 28 women in Armagh announced the end of the no wash protest...so as to concentrate all energies on the basic demands of no prison uniform, no prison work and free association.

The no wash protest in Long Kesh began when the men were humiliated and often beaten on their way to the toilet and wash room. They refused to leave the cells and

emptied the pots out of the window and under the door. But when the windows were boarded up and the urine swept back into the cells, protesters wiped their human waste on the walls.

The women in Armagh were forced on to a similar protest last year when their cells were wrecked by male screws and the toilets were locked up for a week.

Now that the prisoners have abandoned this tactic, they will presumably face the same conditions of harassment which forced them on to it. But they say this will be risked in order to highlight the hunger strike for their 5 demands.

### PROTEST

On the outside the action groups have regrouped but with reduced membership which is explained by the confused ending of the previous hunger strike. Then the prisoners were given only a verbal promise a victory march was held within days of this before the consequences could be known.

There was also the famous document which said very little in concrete terms and few people in the action groups have been able to get hold of a copy.

Despite the slow start, there were about 5,000 on the march up the Falls Road on the same day as Sands began his hunger strike despite the cold, rainy day, the continued on Page 2



## UNCLE SAM STEPS IN IT AGAIN - and what a bloody mess!

Even the liberals are appalled at the events in El Salvador where America is supplying military weapons, \$ 25m a year, military advisors equal to that of Vietnam (for military advisors read men trained in spying, assassinations, torture and counter insurgency techniques) to prop up a ruthless tin pot military dictatorship. All this with the usual thirty year old slogans of stopping the creeping international communism, love of democracy freedom, etc.

### CAPITALISM CREEPING UP THE INSIDE LEG OF AMERICA

For conservative strategists in Washington, the Sandinista revolution was far more menacing than Castro's Cuba: it was contagious. If Nicaragua could ditch its dictator why not Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras? Even Panama? What has happened in Nicaragua is the natural result of several decades of autocratic rule over people who eventually decided they had had about as much as they could take. The Americans would have to ensure that it wouldn't spread.

The Carter administration, anxious to clean up the human rights image of Latin America played a major role in the politics of El Salvador. It was closely involved in the overthrow of General Carlos Humberto Romero, who had come to power through fraudulent elections two years before.

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## CON - CENSUS

The last Census to be taken in the North was in 1971. At that time, there were many protests and counter - protests by various groups and individuals. In April of this year, we will most probably see a repeat performance, the same people saying the same things.....here's a brief account of what happened during the '71 census so that we can have an idea of what to expect.

The 1971 Census was the first to be computerised, and was also the first that the R.U.C. weren't involved in collecting (collating is a different matter!). The Chief Registrar for N.I, Jim Malley, certainly had his work cut out....feelings were running high about the biased administration of justice (if it could ever be otherwise) in the North, the use of the vicious Special Powers Act, the antics of the British Army and their experiments with torture.

Many people feared that the security forces would be able to get at the census continued on page 2

### What we pay him

**WAGES:** Net income from the Duchy of Cornwall in 1979 was £506,600. He keeps half for expenses like staff wages and pocket money. Mind you his family claim a cool £21,870,000 in total from the taxpayer each year.

**HOUSE:** Charles' new home, Highgrove House, set him back one million quid recently. Redecoration is expected to cost over £300,000.

**STAFF:** Immediate retainers include a cook, two kitchen maids, butler, gardener, 2 cleaners, 2 valets and a personal detective.

**MOTORS:** Charles is not fond of cars and has limited himself to an Aston Martin DB 6 Volante Mark 2 (£20,000) and a Range Rover (£13,000).

**HOBBIES:** The Prince spends about £50,000 a year stabling, training and buying new polo ponies. Last season he had nine of them. Poor Charles suffered a bit of a shock when his race horse Alibair (£15,000) snuffed it last week.



I HOPE CHARLIE BOY CAN RISE TO THE OCCASION

Brewery shares improved: everyone in this patriotic country will be toasting the couple. Languishing hotel shares perked up: well, marriages in the monarchy are always good for tourism. "We will be making use of it in our overseas promotions," says Rocco Forte, of Trust House Forte, whose shares increased from 195p to 201p.

Black and Edgington, makers of patriotic flags as well as camping gear, put on 4p, presumably because of the flags and not the prospect of an outdoor honeymoon.

The biggest share beneficiaries from the engagement are the china companies. Wedgwood immediately leapt up from 68p to 73p, as it revealed an £800 black basalt bust of the happy Prince. Royal Worcester soared from 270p to 286p by Friday night, as the market thought of all the souvenir mugs and jugs.

Birmingham Mint did not wait for the official announcement before designing its commemorative medals. They were all ready to go into production. "We quite often have to take a view in advance of events," managing director Colin Perry explained. "Sometimes it comes off, sometimes it doesn't." This time it has and Birmingham Mint shares went from 205p to 223p on Tuesday.

But will Moss Bros make money from the wedding? The market thinks so and has sent the shares up from 180p to 187p. Chairman Monty Moss says plenty of his suits will be going to The Wedding. "The Commonwealth guests usually hire," he says. "They take all our biggest sizes." But he is glad the wedding is scheduled for late July. Any earlier and his suits could have been at Ascot.



# "Shock Horror" Unemployment

Although the numbers of 'unemployed' is rapidly increasing, with the unofficial estimate reaching almost 20%, there seems to be little opposition or protest. Any militancy which the trade union movement may have had in its early days has been smothered by the bureaucratic and reformist tendencies within it.

The most we get is a delegation to Westminster, or a statement for the media decrying the 'economic madness of monetarism' and claiming to be 'appalled at the unacceptable level of unemployment'. The trade union leadership will even hold another demonstration in April. So what's new?

The left's response seems limited to a 'demand' for the 'right to work'. This demand is no more than a plea and the right to work amounts to the right to be exploited. And all nationalisation would achieve would be a new set of exploiters.

While we support any attempt to obstruct the ability of capitalists and the state to hire and fire at will, our tactics and aims must be more than an improvement of capitalist and state rule—whether of the welfare state or monetarist variety. They must be applied not as begging for more crumbs, but as a short term struggle in the overall direction of opposing the ability of our rulers to rule and exploit us.

## CO-OPS

There are three main areas of activity. The first is the creation of co-operative work. The complexities of advanced industrial manufacturing will only arise if the workers of a firm which is about to close down, decide to take over and run it themselves. It is unlikely that others would have the capital (!) to start such a venture afresh and the buying of new materials and the distribution of goods 'on the market' are several of the problems to be faced.

Co-operative work doesn't necessarily imply the 'setting up' of a co-op, but in its general sense goes on all the time with people helping each other to look after children, fix the roof, repair a car, etc. What we are suggesting as well, is the creation of service or productive co-ops. Those with skills such as plumbing, could teach others and the 'gang' offer their services to the community either for free or at reduced prices.

The problem of income can be approached by either relying on the dole, and exchanging needs (plumbing food etc) or by charging reasonable rates if you are struck off the dole or to pay for materials. The gang would pool the income and redistribute it according to size of family etc. Productive co-ops could range from the growing of foods to the printing of posters etc.

Because so much of co-operative work is not profitable many people will still have to remain on the dole. This is the case for the majority of the unemployed anyway. Co-ops should not become safety valves for the state.

The level of SS is pathetic and methods to improve it and make it available to all those entitled should be found. This is not a reformist demand, if we realise that the state has no 'right' to decide what we get.

That right is based on power, and the ownership of the resources of wealth by capitalists and the state are what we must ultimately destroy.

There is always in the meantime though. So long as we are aware of the source of poverty and hierarchy and so long as our methods include an attack on those sources we can avoid being bought off and contained. The demand for higher SS rates must be coupled with such an attack.

It is important that any unemployed action groups do not link up with the trade union bureaucracy. Contact and solidarity with local workers can only help, but the officials are only interested in channelling and using you to maintain their own influence.

Equally, petitions delegations etc, have not only proved to be useless but are in themselves limited to asking. The occupation of dole, housing and electricity offices will bring a quicker result than a 'please sir....' It may also bring the RUC quicker, but a plea brings nothing!

## DIRECT ACTION

One of the surest ways of overcoming inflation is to reduce prices, and one of the surest ways of getting something cheap is to steal it. Now don't think that we are suggesting that, but if you insist on risking a fine, the safest way is to do it in numbers.

In Italy its called expropriation or price reduction. There, crowds went into the supermarkets and either, walked out with their shopping bags full, or queued up and refused to let other customers at the till until the 'inflated' price was brought down to a reasonable level. Rock concerts, cinema and buses are other obvious targets.

If say 10p is an agreeable 'unemployed' flat rate for public transport, and about 20 people boarded Huebeck's bus refusing to pay more the most that could happen is they be asked to leave. With the bus being delayed while the driver (who should be challenged about his attitudes) got the RUC or the Whizzkid himself (Huebeck personally removed 20 suspects from a Citybus today....) the tactic might catch on and become unprofitable.

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people who show solidarity are well seasoned and not easily put down.

While there is determination and a general agreement that this campaign will be different there are few signs yet of what that implies. Obviously peaceful mass demonstrations were not enough but the only alternatives seem to be rioting or political action.

For the former to succeed there would have to be more coordination than before in order to stretch the RUC. The political action planned seems limited to the establishment political parties interpretations. Thus a call to make the North ungovernable at a mass delegate meeting in Dublin has been reduced by the National H Block Committee to forcing SDLP councillors to withdraw from the chambers!

For the hunger strike campaign to succeed against such a determined government its main chances would seem to lie with the broadening in scope of its objectives. The threat of unemployed people eg: beginning to emulate the courage and tenacity of the hunger strikers and the protesters outside, would not only force the government to make a move but might create the spirit and example of generalised protest against the conditions of exploitation, authority and sectarianism which produce such hell-holes as Long Kesh and Armagh.

Con census cont. page 1  
material by means of the Special Powers Act, the government denying that if they could, they would—at that time, their own intelligence systems were well under development, even so, the information from the census would have been useful base material.

Mass burnings of forms took place in Andersonstown, Ballymurphy, Ardoyne, the Markets, Springfield Road, amongst other areas. Reaction came from various quarters.... Paisley and his supporters pledged that they wouldn't fill in their census forms until all boycotters were prosecuted (presumably, as soon as Paisley was prosecuted, he'd be happy!) —The Presbyterian Synod, disliking Paisley's outlandish antics took their usual 'upholders of the constitution' position, and stated that those who didn't fill in their census forms were failing in their 'civic responsibility'... surely it is in the interests of all to fill in forms detailing our supposedly private lives and passing them on to a higher power?

About 80 Priests boycotted the census (As calculating in their opportunism as ever), over the 'unjust operation of law in the North'... A Presbyterian minister was prompted to suggest that the loyalty of these Priests was called into question by their antics! This particular action, which appears to have been the largest of the protests over the census, particularly 'puzzled' Mr. Malley, who said that the Bishop of

Down and Connor (whose Diocese these Priests were mostly in) had been "extremely cooperative" in publicising the census and had agreed to appear in promotional material (ie. Front page photos of Philbin filling in a Census form), it appears that Philbin is now conducting his own census.

The media, as usual, were very helpful in the collecting of the census, quoting every word that fell from Malley's reassuring golden lips....all the questions are really necessary...none of the questions are offensive and go no further than friends would in superficial conversation (By the way, mate are you a prod or a taig?). After the boycotts and burnings, Mr. Malley made a heart rendering appeal to those responsible citizens who had been misguided/coerced/intimidated into refusing the census, saying that anyone who wanted a form should come and collect, or ask for a new one....No questions asked (strictly confidential?). The media's line was one of "surely it would be in the interests of all who accuse the state of discrimination to fill in the forms, as these are used in deciding which areas need what amenities." What a joke. One point which was validly made was that few of the protests were over the actual basis of the census... either it was a British census, or the census was being used to highlight other issues — not the fact that it is a state census, for their purposes.





## UNCLE SAM STEPS IN EL SALVADOR

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The new Government which consisted of progressive army officers and civilian politicians (including socialists and communists) promised to end the violence and corruption. The armed forces pledged that 'Order' would be dissolved and any other groups which violated human rights would be opposed; political parties of all complexions would be allowed to operate; an amnesty was declared for political prisoners (those that survived the massacre precipitated by the coup) and those in exile; free elections were to be held within a reasonable period.

Most political parties enthusiastically supported the new Junta's plan for agrarian and fiscal reforms in the interim period until elections could be held. Their enthusiasm was short lived. Three months later with the violence unchecked and all attempts at reform blocked by the economic elite (dubbed the 'fourteen families') and their allies within the military, the civilians in the Junta resigned.

**When innocent people are being murdered by the State and various paramilitary groups acting on its behalf, at the rate of 12,000 a year, naturally the people will want to defend themselves, and are forced to take aid by whoever can give it whether it be from Cuba, Russia or Nicaragua. And when Haig, American Secretary of State, produces his 'thick document' on evidence of getting arms from these countries he is only trying to justify the intervention and supply of arms to the junta which caused the problem initially.**

In El Salvador the violence has reached quite a manic level of cool discriminate terror, 12,000 killed last year and the recently uncovered 300 people massacre....the entire leadership of the 'legitimate' opposition kidnapped at a public meeting and murdered: four American nuns raped and then shot because of their work with the landless peasants, two American lawyers gunned down in the Sheraton Inn in San Salvador because they were associated with the movement for land reform. And all within a year of the assassination of Archbishop Romero. In short, the government of El Salvador is a military junta with a civilian president and a few civilian ministers, it used to have a lot more until a year ago when most of them through their lot in with the revolutionary left on the ground that the military were out of control.

Even the Church is not immune from general repression and are forced to speak out against it which makes them a legitimate target for the junta.

In the next few weeks to counter the sympathetic reports of journalists against the Duarte regime so far, we will see the extensive black propaganda machine of the United States of America going into full production with all its dirty tricks and lies.

After the recent Reagan meeting, Thatcher is already supporting America in their proposed blockade of communist arms to El Salvador.

What they are really saying is for the American armed junta to have free reign in disposing of an unarmed population who resist the dictatorship.

We only hope that America can be forced to withdraw their economic and military aid now before they send in the B52s and make another Vietnam for themselves.

## Down with more radar

N.A.T.O. is a so-called war alliance between the military machines of Europe and America and is very much controlled by the American military industrialists who are prepared to finance so much of the weapons used throughout the so-called 'free world'. American business interests are at heart, though their weird notions of making the 'world free' is what they tell us.

American militarists are stock-piling weapons all over, and particularly in Europe... where all the governments from Greece to Britain are only too willing to accept the American war-machine. And throw in billions of pounds, drachmas, or whatever to add their own defences. As outlined in the last Outta Control, Britain is rapidly extending and developing an efficient radio and radar communications system as an essential back-up for war preparations. Latest at this time of austerity measures is the financing of a new micro-wave radio-station at St.

John's Point, in S.E. Down....6 miles from Downpatrick, and a mere 12 miles from the big radar communications centre at Bishopscourt in Co. Down. Planning permission has already been granted for the station and a 70-foot radar mast near the lighthouse....ironically on the same site that the electricity service wanted for a nuclear power station in the early and mid-70's. The planning permission is for a single story building though how much will be underground and what the cost will be to the Telecommunications industry is not for us to know. (We merely pay for it in the long run).

There is some 'speculation' locally as to its use, with Telecom saying as little as possible. The new station is in direct line of sight with Bishopscourt, and well within the 35 miles necessary for it to be effective. Hence it will link up with the British micro-wave system---via the Isle of Man--- and so become another intricate part of the British-American nuclear attack system, and further evidence of the importance of Ireland in the jingoist minds of the military. That it will also improve the color-T.V. reception in this part of remote Down is NOT really what the British government is up to, no matter what they say!!

## REIGN IN SPAIN

Everyone has heard of the attempted coup in Spain last week when Lt. Col. Tejero of the Civil Guard, led his troops into the parliament buildings.

But few people are aware of a trial in France, less than a month ago, when some anarchists faced charges which were first brought against them in '74, during the Franco Fascist regime.

They had been accused of complicity in the kidnapping of Spanish banker, Suarez, to demand the release of political prisoners. 'Evidence' was collected by co-operation between the fascist Spanish police and the police of those well known social democratic countries--France and England.

Although the coup failed, and the anarchists were finally freed, it would be wrong to assume that Spain is now a 'new' society. There is no doubt that it is nearer a social democracy than fascism (in political terms) but the recent events beg the question--how great is the difference?

The armed forces, judiciary and administration of fascist Spain have remained relatively undisturbed in the passage to 'democracy'. Only certain sectors have been disgruntled. The Guardia Civil are the equivalent of our UDR and have the same reputation. They fit uncomfortably into the 'social democratic' image of only using the police to deal with opposition but that image is gradually changing.

Also over 100 police resigned when fellow officers were charged with the murder, after torture of a Basque. It seems as if the political parties have successfully managed the transfer of political power, but the whole apparatus in use was created under fascism and generally speaking does the job well--with just a few hiccups

## CUTTING OUR OWN THROATS

During the turbulent period of 1919 a cabinet minister Mr Boner Law said 'There was no doubt that many people attribute the present industrial unrest to the lack and poor quality of beer'

The cabinet agreed to authorise an increase in production and in strength while reducing its price. So much for 1919.

Today in ghetto areas we have hundreds of drinking places, state controlled leisure centres, community centres, the slot machine joints and all the other counter insurgent techniques and plans designed to keep us quiet (not to mention TV)

Social clubs at best give the people entertainment in the form of bingo nights, pop music etc.

Even socialist groups who have control of 'social' clubs simply reflect any capitalist owned pub (who are out just to make money) apart from a few slogans. There is little or no attempt to develop any resistance or alternative culture in opposition to 'establishment' type culture designed to reinforce the position and values of our oppressors. There are centres, although sadly not in Belfast. Their emphasis is not on drink but on political education. They show socialist films, put on political plays, have experimental music sessions, lectures debates, exhibitions, alternative comics who don't resort to the usual sexist, racist jokes. They are not interested in people slowly getting stoned but rather in getting people high on ideas.





We live in an exploitative and authoritarian society. It is exploitative because the primary aim of those who own (capitalists) or control (managers) the means of production distribution, and exchange (of food housing, clothing, technology, money, leisure etc.) are motivated by profit, and not need. They are 'in business' to maintain and increase the wealth and power which they possess—not to ensure that the resources are available to satisfy people's needs.

It is also an authoritarian society because the social and political life is administered by the STATE. The state is not a natural phenomena, but one whereby the wealth and power of the ruling class are protected by laws, courts, police prison etc. Increasingly today the state is widening its sphere of influence and power. It has taken over many of the enterprises which are central to the running of society, but which were no longer profitable for capitalism—the post office, public transport...also because power by its very nature, encourages those who have it to gain more, the state is no longer just a protector and administrator for capitalism, it also has interests of its own and has, for example created new 'profitable' industries of its own—oil, gas etc.

The state is composed of a vast bureaucracy of civil servants and administrators, as well as the more public group of politicians. The fact that you put piece of paper marked X into a ballot box every 4 years is called 'democracy'. All we are doing is changing the face of the ruling class without changing the situation whereby we are always ruled, always told what to do.

#### WHAT IS CRIME

There are two types of crime. The first is the state's definition for those who break its rules, and ours, whereby the state and capitalism themselves are crimes against humanity. They exploit and enforce obedience in order to keep themselves in power.

Because the state and capitalism control the means of communication (newspapers, TV., film, books theatre, etc) it is not too difficult for them to form public opinion. So the state's ideas of what crime is is usually what society accepts.

The laws are made by the politicians (with the real pressure coming from different sections of the ruling class) and they have the means TV etc to persuade us that they are in the 'national interest'. It should be obvious though that the laws are made in the interests of the ruling class—in fact by them.

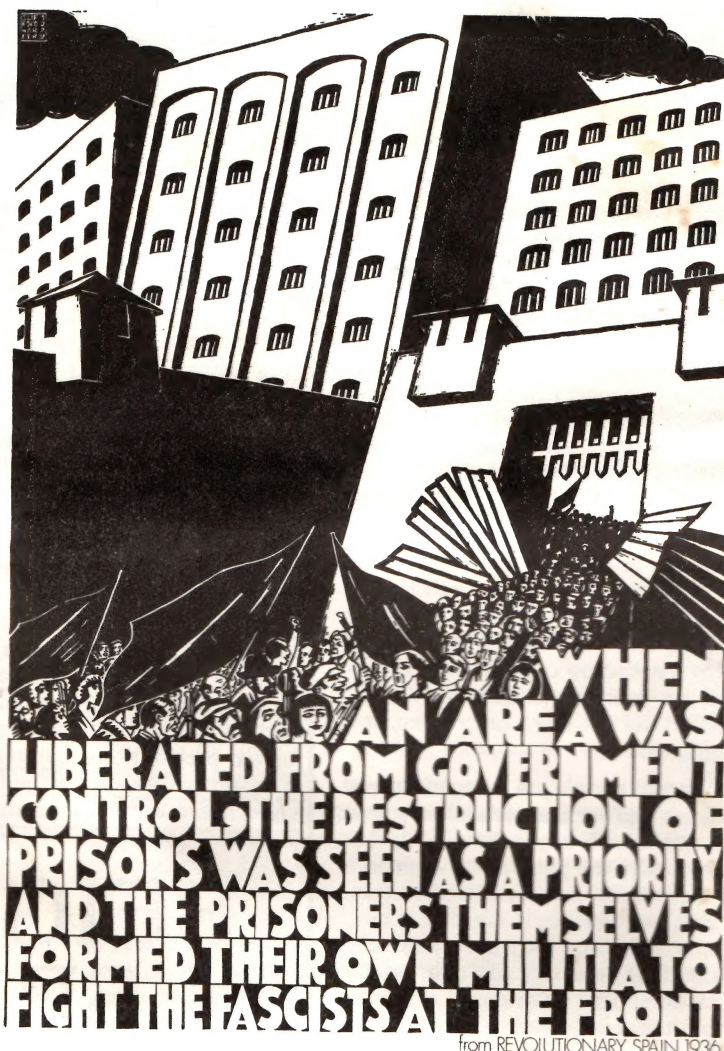
These laws are enforced by the police and the judiciary and punishment ranges from fines to imprisonment (or the threat of it if you don't behave). These are agencies of the state which we have seen is a power bloc in itself. It can hardly be seen as independent.

Crimes can be divided into two—firstly those which threaten the interests of the ruling class such as bank robberies, illegal strikes, destruction of state property or commercial property etc. The fact that capitalism steals the surplus wealth which workers create, enormous office blocks are built at the expense of public housing is of course not criminal. These crimes against wealth and authority are harshly dealt with by the courts.

The other type of 'crime' is anti-social behaviour. It is important that the state at least pretends to deal with this problem—firstly, because it is a democracy after all! and must be seen to protect its citizens, and secondly, if this behaviour were not dealt with it might interfere with the smooth running of making money and maintaining power. Again it is no coincidence that the anti-social behaviour of capitalism and authority is not dealt with by law.

As for the taking back of wealth stolen from us

# THE ROLE OF PRISONS



and the destruction of business or state property we see no crime. But the problem of anti-social behaviour has to be dealt with. Not only is the state's handling of this area counter productive but it ignores and condemns whole aspects of violence.

In fact it creates the conditions of much of today's anti-social behaviour. People have little control over their lives and are alienated from it. The work we perform is not for ourselves or our community, but to sell on the market for profit for the bosses. The decisions as to what type of housing, information, transport etc we want is taken by bureaucracy. Our own role is reduced to asking for favours and permission from these bureaucrats.

Our relationships with each other are conditioned by our relationships to the sources of power and wealth. The fact that our lives are ones of obedience to other powers, affects our social and personal lives. People, whose self respect and creativity has been stolen or squashed by authority, will find it difficult to respect others and form creative relationships. Our anger against authority can be redirected against those who are in immediate contact—relatives, lovers, neighbours etc. So in this sense the existence of the state and capitalism CREATES crime.

If we were to destroy these structures much of the origins of anti social behaviour would be removed. But because our culture has had thousands of years of authoritarian and exploitative relationships and because since birth we are conditioned to accept these, the structures are not just external. We reproduce many of these traits in our own behaviour. This problem will be dealt with later.

#### ROLE OF PRISONS

The judiciary and police exist both to intimidate most of the population into disobedience and to deal with the small numbers who ignore its laws. There is of course a vast number of capitalists and managers who ignore the laws on tax, land, equality etc, who are not prosecuted. We will not deal with these here as it is not the excesses of capitalism and authority which must be abolished but they themselves.

However, on another occasion we should pay them more attention.

Prisons are the ultimate punishment for those whose crimes are serious or who persist ie: those who attack the values of authority and capital, and those whose repeated anti-social behaviour is embarrassing for the government.

For the first number of people it is obvious that prison is the weapon which the ruling class use to punish those who challenge it. As such prison or 'crime' should not exist because capitalism and the state should not exist. By destroying these, we will automatically destroy the reason for imprisoning these people.

The second group of people we have called anti social. This is because their behaviour is against people who are not one of their sources, or don't benefit from the authoritarian society. Examples are stealing from working class homes or violence against those who become the scapegoat for your own frustrations and alienation such as male violence against women, gang violence, parents beating kids.

The state claims in its laws and propaganda that prison is there to deter and rehabilitate these people. Anyone who has been inside or who has friends inside or who cares to do a little research will know that prison does neither.

It doesn't deter those who have already made the first move to defy authority and especially in the present recession with unemployment soaring and cuts in welfare benefits, people's frustrations are deepening. That violent expression of frustration and alienation is the product of life conditioning a more powerful force than the external threat of imprisonment.

Prison doesn't rehabilitate either. Because primarily it doesn't even try. Education and training facilities inside are so meagre as to discourage anyone trying. Even if facilities were to be improved they wouldn't begin to effect the reasons for anti social behaviour. In fact prison is a symptom of the society which creates such behaviour in the first place. The only effect re-

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abilitation could have is to produce an individual who accepted his/her alienation and powerlessness to produce a good citizen.

#### ALTERNATIVES

The only conclusion we can reach for the long term is a social revolution. We must destroy the state, patriarchy (male power) and capitalism. and replace it with a libertarian society, where individuals groups, communities control their own lives (work, social sexual) and federate on a voluntary basis with other groups to improve the quality of life. By such a revolution many of the conditions which produce inequality alienation and authority will be removed.

But as well as working towards some future event or series of events we must begin now. We must start to create libertarian relationships in social and personal life now. The centuries of conditioning leave their residue of competitiveness and domination in all of our personalities, not only in present authoritarian society, but even were a social revolution to be successful.

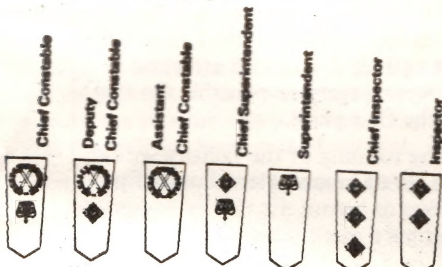
It is particularly difficult to create alternatives to prison in this society. Some attempts have been made in England (RAP) where they offer facilities for those coming out of prison to regain their self respect, but we should be wary of such efforts being recuperated by the state to put a humane face on its prisons policies. Our aim (and I am sure RAP is aware of this) is not to become a welfare agency but to oppose and campaign for the abolition of prisons.

In future society the problems of anti social behaviour may still exist. Violence against other people destruction of their labour and undermining of their cooperation may occur. How these will be handled will depend on the circumstances of both the event and the general society.

If resources are stretched and little energy free, banishment from the community or retribution in the form of helping in the work of the victim are two possibilities depending on the severity and repetition of such behaviour.

But probably more important is the question of who decides. One prospect is the gathering of all the people concerned and their friends (social, work etc) and the arbitration of the dispute by someone who both people accept and trust. The primary aim of such a meeting would be for the two to immediately involved to reach an agreement after explanation and debate. But in the event of no solution the arbitrator would have to make a decision which would be binding insofar as both people accepted the arbitrator.

These of course are only tentative solutions and cannot replace the importance of a change in attitudes and relationships as being the best hope for undermining anti social behaviour.



#### STRATEGY

In the constant work towards creating a social revolution, particular repressive institutions are given priority for both exposure of conditions and resistance to their development. One institution is of course prison. Up to now the campaign against excesses—such as isolation 'criminalisation' The problem with these is that they don't get to the root of the problem and they can be recuperated. In fact, if won, may even improve the image of prisons. So in our propaganda and political work we should attack in ways which cannot be turned against our eventual aim. While we may be involved in certain reformist activities such as providing books, campaigning for political status, etc thought should be given to tactics which don't make specific demands but hit home at the nature of prisons.

# HOUSING SHOW BUSINESS

TIME Feb 1981

PLACE Lower Ormeau (could be any redevelopment area

OCCASION Housing meeting  
CAST Housing Executive, SDLP and Alliance councillors, catholic priest, local housing association, chairperson, architect and builder  
Department of the Environment, 60 local residents.

On entering a large room in the Church of the Word of God (honest) we were confronted by three slide screens and dignatories from public life. Although this was supposed to be an AGM of the local Housing Association to discuss the years developments and reflect a committee it was soon evident that this was a public relations job. The chairperson had presumably invited the big wigs to answer questions and the audience were caught unawares. (Does this circus travel to other areas as well).

Cooke, from Alliance, gave a short political party broadcast and was applauded (do some people also clap a ppb. on tv?) McDonnell from SDLP didn't stay long enough to get his speech in (so he must be confident enough of reselection in the City Council in May) the builders firm Taggarts, sent along two smooth talkers, Savage and Whiteside (who if Taggarts were a political party would surely make it to the European Parliament) the DOE representative Devlin was a bit uncertain in thought. Although his office (the area office) was one of liaison between the DOE and the public he had no knowledge of the main departments such as water, roads, lights and neither had he the more important attribute of pretending to know.

These performers were compered by the Master of Ceremonies our very own chairperson, who invited questions, problems and points of view. Damp, condensation, low water pressure etc. were all dealt with individually, and if the resident proved unsatisfied and persistent there was a personal assurance that the builder/architect would personally come round and see the house in person—'Would you take that person's name down Mr Chairman and remind me to pay them a visit next week' An older man at the back who suggested the redeveloped houses in Essex Street were better off before and would be better off now demolished didn't get a reply but an embarrassed silence.

The Housing Executive had two speakers (plus at least three other backers). The first Bass, tried his best to wriggle out of complaints about incompetence but wasn't self confident (slippery) enough to carry it off. But the biscuit must go to Williamson the manager of the local area office in Ann St. He didn't even try to play the game and brushed objections and problems aside by implying we were lucky to have houses at all.

To a slight degree the builders and councillors are conscious of public reaction; the latter increasingly because of the May elections the former are operating an open market (open to corruption) and subject to competition from other firms for contracts so they must at least respond to the dissatisfied tenant. But the Housing Executive have a monopoly over public housing and judging by Williamson don't give a shit about such a puny derelict area as the Lower Ormeau. The HE are an underfinanced and over bureaucratic wing of the state and get stick day in and day out. They, of course don't confront the problems but employ a vast workforce who delect, discourage and placate frustrated tenant. Poor Williamson must be fed up; and after all is only human—I wonder does he bleed?

Newberry—no, not a poisonous fruit—is the local Catholic priest who controls the state financed community facilities (youth club nursery etc) and is leading contender for boss of the proposed new community centre He appeared half way through the meeting and was called by the chairperson to share the small platform with him—which he did beaming; and embarrassingly laughed at a satirical joke on one of the builders because everyone else laughed. He said nothing but took it all in and helped reinforce people's alienation from their OWN meeting and the chance to discuss THEMSELVES what to do with the area.

On several occasions I nearly spoke—I nearly shouted—I nearly attacked Cooke et al. But what I did was leave half way through. The meeting was too vague to come to terms with. What was the point of talking to arrogant slime like the councillors, builders, HE? It was the residents I wanted to talk to, to say—if we want to discuss our own business and our tactics than we don't invite this lot (they don't invite us to their planning meetings) We should be collectively deciding what's wrong with the area, who caused it what needs to be done, and how we can do it. We don't need the ritual of voting in a committee who would be impotent in the 'dialogue' with professional talkers from the HE. We ALL have the responsibility to make the changes we want in the area, and should n't delegate that responsibility to a committee who always accept the rules of the HE and who anyway especially that night became a show piece so the HE can say we will always consult you.

But I said nothing. I left and realised probably why only 60 out of a couple of thousand bothered to turn up. The whole range of counter insurgents were there (priests councillors, community workers and HE hacks) and I didn't want to advertise myself as a subversive because I do want to subvert to resist their plans for control over us.

H BLOCK  
ON THE DOLE  
H BLOCK  
HELL HOLE  
H BLOCK  
BRITISH ARMY  
H BLOCK  
BLOODY 'BALMY'  
H BLOCK  
PROTESTED  
H BLOCK A  
ARRESTED  
H BLOCK  
CASTLEREAGH  
H BLOCK  
HERE TO STAY

H BLOCK  
R U C  
H BLOCK  
BRUTALITY  
H BLOCK  
TO ENDURE  
H BLOCK  
TORTURE  
H BLOCK  
NO TRANSGRESSION  
H BLOCK  
SIGNED 'CONFESSION'  
H BLOCK  
GUILTY SURELY  
H BLOCK  
WITH NO JURY

H BLOCK  
SHIT ON WALLS  
H BLOCK  
KICK ON BALLS  
H BLOCK  
OBSCENE  
H BLOCK  
STEAM CLEAN  
H BLOCK  
SHITTY GRUB  
H BLOCK  
FULL OF BLOOD  
H BLOCK  
VISIT HOURS  
H BLOCK  
LEFT WITH SCARS

H BLOCK  
ALWAYS LOSE  
H BLOCK  
BASTARD SCREWS  
H BLOCK  
MEN SO BRAVE  
H BLOCK  
COULD BE THEIR GRAVE  
H BLOCK  
IN A PAR  
H BLOCK  
WITH ARMAGH  
H BLOCK  
BLANKET MEN  
H BLOCK  
WIN IN END  
WIN IN END





The occupation of the Euroweld engineering plant still continues after six weeks and despite the fact that the security guards were able to lock the workers out one night when no one was actually occupying (oops)!

#### TRADE UNIONS USELESS

So far the occupation has received no official union backing and the workers have never even received on single visit from any trade union official.

Before the firm went bust, the officials were brought up to negotiate about future lay offs and at every stage sided with the managements recommendations which the workers resisted.

All this is not surprising when you consider the bureaucrats in charge of the unions. Periodically they are wheeled in front of television, Carlin, Hull and company and condemn the latest unemployment figures and closures but they are the last to support any action against unemployment. In the Euroweld occupation they have deliberately misled other trade unionists as they see any stand against unemployment as undermining their bankrupt ideas and passive position and threatening their cushy jobs.

#### WORKERS ARE NOT BLAMELESS

It is not surprising however that these appointed bureaucrats get away with it when you look at the trade union membership as a whole. Most people who belong to a trade union do so only because they need a card to hold a job. They are apathetic to any trade union involvement and leave the running of it to a small clique. Times are changing and people will have to consider the consequences of their inactivity and reliance on leaders, the consequence of which is a complete demoralisation against fighting unemployment.

#### SOLIDARITY

Workers should consider the various ways so that they can directly fight unemployment. Especially the thousands of workers that surround the Euroweld plant, for it is they who can give the most immediate support to the Euroweld occupation. So far it has been only individuals.

#### EVERYONE FOR THEMSELVES

The technicians and staff of Euroweld have foolishly taken the firms side even when they have been exploited and are without jobs as any manual worker. They have deserted the 140 workers who have chosen to occupy.

#### MOTIVATION

The Euroweld workers are highly trained and would have no difficulty in finding a job elsewhere (except maybe for the shop stewards who would be victimised). Their product (producing tanks for containment of substances such as gases etc) is made nowhere else in Britain and they see their task as keeping their skills within Northern Ireland whereas closure would probably mean the loss of these skills.

#### CO-OP ON THE HORIZON

At present they are formulating a plan to collectively put their redundancy money together and buy the plant themselves and turn it into a workers co-operative. They believe they have enough orders to make the company viable. (Although no doubt living in a capitalist society hostile to any form of workers self management would have problems). So far the receiver has given them no assistance although he has given information to other potential buyers.

If setting up a co-op is a last ditch attempt through not finding a buyer, as a means of just holding onto jobs, then it will probably adopt the same roles and structure that existed under their previous employer. To see a co-op as not only an alternative to the capitalist system but a challenge to it, and not just economically, is by far the most visionary. The workers are bound not simply through working for the same 'firm' but by the idea of creating a better, freer society for themselves and others.

They work collectively taking decisions together producing or selling a product which is socially useful, relating and sharing skills. This shared work experience without the need for leaders can contribute to the confidence of the individual and the group. Sex roles and sexism are broken down. Wages are based on what a person needs and gives what they can. Surplus money gained is not seen as the co-ops private funds. The workers have a responsibility to use the surplus in a productive way for the benefit of the community and not themselves personally.

There will obviously be limitations that the militant co-ops will suffer from. They are surrounded by capitalist enterprises who constantly service them. If the co-ops pose any real threat it would be very easy to isolate and destroy it.

#### STATES POLICIES

It is unlikely that the Thatcher government will step in and pay off the creditors and provide money to restart the firm. They are more prepared to give money to tried and tested capitalists like De Lorean or O'Neill the original owner of Euroweld. He was given the grants to pay for the machinery and the new extension, (even at the opening of the new extension they knew the firm was sliding into trouble) and at one time most of the workforce were receiving wage subsidies from the state.

#### KEEP CLEAR: STATE AT WORK

If the workers do manage to form a co-op out of Euroweld hopefully they could do it with as few strings attached to the state as possible, the state were largely responsible for the legal rip off and results in the first place.

Any state interference in the running of the factory would only mean exchanging one set of incompetent bosses for another.

#### HELP

Right now the Euroweld workers are looking for support, financial or otherwise in order to continue their struggle.

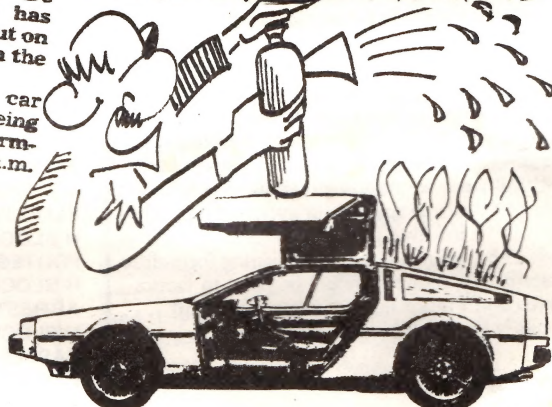
In the ritual slaughter method shown at the plant the steer was placed in a revolving drum with its head through an opening. It was turned on its back and its throat was presented for the slaughterman's knife. One cut only was required. A leading member of the Belfast Jewish community, Mr. John Kay told councillors at the plant that the ritual method, without stunning, was a strict requirement for members of his faith.

A SALVATION Army appeal for £1m to help London's jobless, homeless and helpless, launched yesterday by the Duke of Westminster, himself thought to be Britain's wealthiest man.

MR. ADAM Butler, Industry Minister, has turned down a new proposal from Mr. John De Lorean, who suggested the Government forego debt repayments and royalties on its £70m aid to the sports car venture for a period of four years.

ONE of the new De Lorean sports cars has come to grief while out on a pre-dawn test run in the Glens of Antrim. The silver skinned car caught fire while being driven on the Glenarm-Ballymena road at 4 a.m. yesterday.

IRELAND'S VERSION OF THE 'HOT-ROD'?!





# "MASS LAWLESSNESS" IN ZURICH

Over the past few weeks, there has been a fresh outbreak of "mass lawlessness" in Zurich, following the events of last year, as outlined in this article (translated from the French magazine, *Agora*), which rocked the previously 'calm boat' of the Swiss state.

The Zurich youth have been waiting for 10 years for the finance from the Authorities, necessary in order to open the "Rote Fabrik" (Red Factory), an autonomous culture and leisure centre. In 1977, the people of the city voted in favour of the project but in May 1980, no changes had been made to make available the building.

On the 30th. May last, tired of waiting for the 8 million Swiss francs necessary for the renovation of the "Opera" (the bourgeois culture certainly rushes things!) credits finally voted for on the 8th. of June - tired therefore of being fucked about/ ignored, hundreds of youth assembled in front of the Opera on the occasion of a premiere, facing an extremely hardened police. The next day, a second demonstration was charged by the police: broken windows, doors beaten down, fires started, new arrests and even more injured!

These two days were the "spark to light the fire" (bulletin of birth) of a movement which has kept in operation ever since. On the 4th. June, there was a general meeting where film was shown of the police brutalities, a film which was banned the next

day by the public education chief.....the two students who made the film were hounded, which provided the extension of the movement into the schools and universities. On the 9th. June, the film was shown at the university in front of 2-3,000 students. The demonstration in the town is broken up and ends with further confrontations with the police.

Two days later, a massive demonstration of 4,000 people is held; the police, present with all their anti-riot paraphernalia, intervene...Finally, on the 28th. June, the council gives in, "the young people shall have their centre", but the Socialist Party, which acted as mediator will be the principal agent in the building and, in fact, would control everything!

On the 2nd. July, the city opens the "autonomous" centre, but during the night of 12-13 July, 6,000 people go onto the streets. There, the movement goes further than the theme of an autonomous centre. Having taken "No power for anyone" as a slogan, the demonstrators pass in front of the city hall, shouting "Make cucumber salad of the state!" Attacked by the police, the demonstrators take a different direction: a veritable night of barricades.

After a brief summers break, the movement starts up again and expands. At first, a demonstration in Berne demands the creation of an autonomous centre there. In Zurich, on August 30th, 1,000 demonstrators

have to suffer as the police charge yet again. A second night of barricades occurs yet again on the night of 6-7th. September. But taking the pretext of the continuance of the troubles as a pretext, the council decides, not to dismantle the existing riot squads, but to close the "autonomous" centre. On the 10th. Sept, this provocation brings about a further night of barricades. Two days later, the pigs, once again, spread disorder in the centre of Zurich....

At first being relatively isolated, this movement grows from demonstration to demonstration. It was capable of furnishing itself with structures open for all to express themselves in, but also with an infrastructure which was put to the test during these past months, like the general meetings, or even the pirate radios, particularly useful at the time of the confrontations in order to inform on the police manouvers. Up until now, these young protesters have continued to ridicule the authorities. Thus, on 2nd July, two councillors who made the mistake of accepting a television debate against two of the protesters, had to face two young people who kept mocking and axing their interventions on the theme "we must shoot all young people?..."

Let us point out in our conclusion that the Zurich Anarchist movement plays an active role in this struggle with a libertarian character, and also that some comrades have a fair few problems as a result (fines, court cases etc....).

## BRITS AND PIECES

The INLA are held responsible for the continuing existence of left opportunist MP Anthony Wedgwood Benn. According to the New Statesman Airey Neave had planned in 1979 with ex MI5 agents Benn's assassination if a left Labour Party came to power. The choice between Benn and Neave must be difficult!

Tara Mines are one of the two remaining mining companies in Donegal, successfully to get a renewal of their licence to mine for uranium from the Department of Industry, Commerce and Tourism. This was despite the local opposition, including a resolution against such a renewal by the County Council.

## AMSTERDAM

Dear Friends,

The squat here is rapidly coming together, we had to completely renew the electrics and are now pointing and putting in the windows. It used to belong to Hans Prell, but now by a big builder, who is determined to get us out. He already got in once but the place was re-possessed, his Mercedes wrecked and his ladder thrown in the canal, there are plenty of squats here and they are quite well organised, though we have had recently two defeats—the Grote Wetering, 5 houses together, which were taken with the help of 2000 riot police tanks, dogs, horses, the lot. Greatly enjoyed the subsequent riot and the As organised some good direct actions round the fringes. Its quite different here—all about propaganda and play battles, though with the recession the state is moving quickly to the right.

MIKE

## SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Sermon on the mount  
So what's new—that's history  
Flash in the dark—reported mystery  
The great man booms a new account—  
Hellfire, arms and a damned nation  
Statements sweeping, jailing and some gnashing teeth—

To be certified or 'armless'—false or otherwise?  
Sermon on the mount  
The price of peace or war  
Five hundred heads on discount  
As one body trained by whistle  
Licenced dogs of war unleash a legalised epistle  
In waves hearts flutter Paisley patterns  
White papers flap on windy words  
And other summit talks....

Meikuth

## DENMARK

Dear Friends,  
Many thanks for the Outta Controls you send me. Shit, the situation is real terrible in the prisons. It was covered quite well in Danish newspapers, but not in the way which can help the H Block prisoners. I hope that other european countries can put pressure on England to change its repression in Northern Ireland.

On the action side we are concentrating on the French nuclear tests, the repression of French polynesie and the development of the nuclear Free Pacific (on Ference).

## WEST OF THE BANN

HEIN

Dear Sir,

I am a fifteen year old who has realised how it is not worth the bother of studying for O levels as I will reduce myself to a mindless run of the mill citizen. I don't want a job in which I'll feel like a caged animal "I wanna be me" (Sex Pistols song as if you didn't know). So, while listening to some Crass record I spotted this address and here I am. DAVID

Armchair adventure with The World's Wild Places  
an incredible series from



OUTTA CONTROL



# NON CENSUS DAY

April 5th. is census day, and by then every house in N.I., Scotland, England, and Wales will be issued with census forms. Information sought includes details of our home, our work, our relationships, our education, our transport methods, and how these have all changed over the years.

Responsibility for the census collection and the information is supposedly held by the Registrar General, of the Dept. of Finance. However, he is directly responsible to the Secretary of State, H. Atkins. The 'collated' results will be computerised, and stored at the Computer Services Division of the Civil Service at Stormont. The results are reported as being for the use of central and local govt, social researchers, the health and education services, market researchers and industrialists, though there is supposedly a 'confidentiality clause' whereby no individual can be identified either by direct access to the computer data, or by cross-referencing by outsiders. However, as we shall see, all this is rather dubious, a mere ploy to get us to fill in the form in the first place.

The first British census was taken in 1801, and the first year of every decade since. The purpose of the 1801 census was to enable the government of the day to assess their potential military strength, to evaluate the cannon-fodder readily available at a time when European govts. were lining up for or against Napoleon. (Since 1801, most Western industrialised states have some form of census, now officially sanctioned by the United Nations.)

Nowadays, the interests of social welfare and civic responsibility are stressed with the military and internal security uses played down.

The previous census in 1971 was the first to be computerised and was based on ordnance survey 1 mile squares. In 1981, however, with the rapid growth of computer technology, the units of reference are much smaller, 100 square metres in rural areas and 1 square metre in the towns and cities. Quite precise details of our existence is thus being collected on April 5th (though the question on religion is voluntary, kept in at the request of nosy social scientists)... but the uses to which this information can and will be put leave us with no choice but to somehow subvert this state collection.

## WHY AND HOW?

Firstly the record of all governments but particularly the British on computer data—its storage and uses—leaves much to be desired. Data banks—with information on our lives and habits are held by the government services, the security industry and private industry. British governments here consistently refused to implement any sort of data protection law i.e.: there are absolutely no safeguards as to what information exists on data banks, how it got there or the uses to which it was put. A Data Protection Committee was set up in 1978 to look into this very problem and its report in December of that year outlined a whole series of provisions aimed at controlling the abuse of the data banks of information, the most important provision was for anyone to be able to find out just what information was held on them on computers. Not surprisingly the government ignored the report. Again in 1981 a set of international guidelines have just been published by organisation for economic co-operation and development, and Council of Europe. The drafted convention is to be signed by European states, but even though the British government helped set out the proposals it is not yet committed to signing. Change in the British system is possible in the near future (mainly because of pressure by multi-national computer firms who fear that the British government sanctioning of computer abuses is destroying confidence in computer technology) but is most unlikely to cover all the Council of Europe proposed legislation: data should be collected lawfully with knowledge of those concerned; data used only for specific and legal purposes; data should be available to individuals. The government uses of computers is not to be hampered by silly liberal laws concerning privacy. It has much greater uses and the best that could be hoped for is that the government would set up another bit of bureaucratic authority which alone would handle access to the information and the data banks and then only covering private data banks not what they currently hold. Not a particularly reassuring situation as we shall see.

Take for instance the new computerised electronic mail facility which began operation in June 1980 with a link

between Britain and Canada. It has now been localised, and a link between Northern Ireland and Britain was set up in February of this year with facilities at the Post Office HQ in Belfast. Users can send data information from computer to computer but codes can be used IF AND ONLY IF THE GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDED WITH A KEY. In effect this entails the government getting a copy of all this essentially private data information all of which can be transferred onto SB or army computers. No wonder the government and the security industry are so unwilling for people to know just how much is kept on us all.

## THE SECURITY INDUSTRY AND COMPUTERS

In 1971 the Army and Police were beginning their computerisation of the entire population of Northern Ireland. The past ten years such communications — information technology has seen an ever increasing boom with industry, government bureaucracy and state security employing it at will, the only restraint being the rapidly developing level of the technology. Such technology can now hold much more information retrieve and carry it at a much faster rate. Like wise it is possible to break computer links to obtain confidential files. If this can be done by outsiders—apparent novices—what can be done by the giant sophisticated computerised operated by the British Army at Lisburn which currently holds 65% of us on its files? The somewhat spurious safeguards about the census existing in Britain do not even apply here....the Register General and all that data handled up in Stormont by the CS is answerable only to Atkins.

The security industry in Britain (SB,MI5,MI6) can claim information on the basis of national security in Northern Ireland, all information is subject to the catch all phrase... "subject to the over riding requirements for dealing with terrorism". Like phone tapping, letter opening if that means census information going to Lisburn as well as Stormont so be it. It can be done without the CS even knowing so filling in a census form is just like registering with the BA at Lisburn. (There is even the possibility of ID cards based on a computer-indexed numbers—the census is a vital step in this direction). Data from the census can be combined with other computer data, it can be transferred from one information system to another. Such cross checking can reveal yet further stores of information for the state data banks. Who can stop the census information from getting into the hands of the Lisburn collater? Who can stop them cross checking with the DHSS computer?

So successful has the army's use of the computer been in Northern Ireland that the British Army in Europe now uses a computerised message system for manoeuvres. Developed by Plessey at the cost of £6m it means that infantry can send information to each other via radio links, though picked up by mobile computer terminals. Also again in Belfast, not only is information kept on as much of the population as possible, but a computer at Belfast telephone exchange is used to monitor literally hundreds of phone calls.

So it is not a good idea to be filling in that form on April 5th, no matter who you are. It is rather spurious to emphasise our civic responsibility and how social welfare, transport planning etc can be covered much more efficiently. If social planning was the aim, wouldn't something have been done this past 200 year? Do we need to build up computer files to know that our transport system kills, our welfare services are crumbling, our education system is sectarian nonsense? The census will not help these. Nor can it be justified by statisticians so called social historians...a very weak argument for an increase in state security so that academics can talk to themselves. The function of the census is for the state bureaucracy and state security to increase its information and hence its power over us. It doesn't seem to make such sense merely to refuse to fill in the form, wait to get prosecuted (over 400 prosecutions in 1971...a mere £10 fine, but a refusal to pay the fine means jail)..... that's much too reminiscent of the Rent and Rates Strike of the early 70s when politicians encouraged a strike only to leave people suffering under the Payment for Debt Act many years later. There are other ways to subvert it:

- (i) there is no form date for handing back the forms...delaying until the last minute is a start.
- (ii) the form doesn't have a built in lie detector...so there is no good reason why any information given has to be accurate
- (iii) the best loop hole is to say that you were somewhere else on April 5th and April 6th...technically you should fill in the form and that other address...and if everyone in your house was 'away' for those two days, there is no reason why your house should be returning a form at all...now is there?



# Gaining Ground

## Outta Control Women's Supplement

*The right to vote, or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls, nor in courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her freedom reaches.*  
EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

## WOMEN'S ACTION CONFERENCE

Last weekend (Feb 27th-March 1st) the Women's Action Group at Queens University held a women's conference. The conference was designed to talk about issues of concern to women and was divided up into lectures and workshops.

By all accounts the conference was a big success, and the women's action group were commended for their good organisation and the good atmosphere, that was created over the weekend.

The conference opened on Friday evening with a session on violence—about 25-35 women took part with the speakers from Women's Aid and the Association for Legal Justice, and a wide ranging discussion developed about male violence, state violence and their relation to women.

On Saturday there were many workshops and lectures on issues like health, images of women and body awareness. Special mention should be made of a session on sex-stereotyping in education led by Sandra Griffiths, which was stimulating and very well received. Later in the day the workshops on sexuality also provided friendly and stimulating discussion over a wide range of related subjects.

On Sunday evening the conference continued with sessions on work, welfare and later in the day a very interesting session on politics. Jennifer Fitzgerald on CND

spoke about the damages of nuclear power in particular for women and children—it made for harrowing listening. Later there was a discussion on imperialism which provoked lively debate—one woman spoke of her involvement in women against imperialism before its break up and the problems of working with groups which were not necessarily feminist. This led to a wide ranging discussion on the autonomy of the women's movement generally.

All in all the conference was enjoyed by all who attended lets hope that the women's action group go on to build on these firm foundations.

## DOCTOR IN COURT

Dr Harvey Jackson was released on continuing bail on Monday 2nd March, after pleading not guilty to the manslaughter of Charlotte Hutton on June 27th 1979. He also pleaded not guilty to two charges of procuring miscarriages in 1979, but guilty to five further charges of procuring miscarriages. Jackson was arrested last May on these charges, and has been out on bail ever since. We do not know if he was responsible for the death of Charlotte Hutton, but what we do know is that if legal abortions were available to all women in Northern Ireland then Charlotte might not have died in the way she did and the services of Jackson and others involved in backstreet abortions would not be required. The media in Northern Ireland, and the establishment would do well to consider that fact instead of using it as an excuse to start a witch hunt for backstreet abortionists!

## STATUS: Newsmagazine for women

The first issue of Status appeared this month, produced in the South. The most obvious drawback about Status is that it has not come from the Irish feminist movement and although its content may change if more and more women write articles for it, it is at present aimed up market, for the more professional types.

The editorial talks of the 'bad old days when there was no Equal Pay Act, no contraception, little or no childcare facilities and no protective family law at all'—it's not exactly a feminist paradise down south—most people would give it credit for being the most socially backward country in Europe.

Its good to see more emphasis on rural women and in future we hope to see more emphasis on poorer women rather than the wives of substantial farmers.

Graphically the magazine is poor—the two full colour features are devoted to an Interior: dream kitchen/sitting room and a fashion feature—a made to order dress in hand painted crepe de chine, price unknown—if Status is going to splash out on four colour work lets have it in the articles on women and not on the look

that society would have us aspire to, and can we be more discriminating about the advertising? What's the difference between the ads on the No Comment page and page 35 'Saving Makes the Difference' (where Superman comes to the rescue and saves a tied up woman on a railway line and another carries a limp body of a woman away). If I had any savings it definitely wouldn't be going into that bank if it had to rely on Superman anyway!

Status has a place in raising women's issues but there is still a gap there for an all Ireland feminist magazine—its doubtful if Status will ever fill that gap.

### EXTRACT FROM LETTER

....I went to the Women's Conference called by Status magazine yesterday. It was pretty appalling as expected. A series of resolutions and demands for politicians to implement. The only two things which stick out in my mind from the day were 1) that both motions on supporting the Armagh women fell through there were few voted directly against them an enormous majority abstained from voting. Rita O Hare and Ann O'Brien both spoke

for the motions, no one spoke against them but the whole thing was a fiasco.

What made it more of a fiasco was that a motion calling for more contact between women in the north and south was passed by a big majority. The voting was all by show of hands. One woman said one of the reasons the vote for the Armagh women was so small (perhaps 40 out of 600) was because of the way the last support campaign was run by Sinn Fein. I don't really accept this though. It was all very disappointing, to say the least. The other thing that sticks in my mind was the applause I got when I said that women had to stop making demands on politicians who had no interest in doing anything for women and begin to do things on our own. However the chances to speak from the floor were minimal. Its a shame for you could feel the potential there.....its given me food for thought.

We would like any woman who wants to make comments, write articles/small news items, coming events to contact us at C/o 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast 1. Tel: 25426



# A LOOK AT THE DEMANDS OF

This is the first of what is likely to become a feature of *Outta Control*—a women's supplement. At present there are no women women's papers being produced in the North and we hope this will go some way to filling the gap until a new women's paper appears.

For this issue we are looking briefly at some of the issues the women's movement have raised and will go into them in depth in later issues.

## WORK

To work in our society means to be exploited, to be controlled by other people, to have little say in how we spend a large amount of our time. To be unemployed is also be exploited—it means being stigmatised, called a scrounger, yet having a pittance on which to survive. In neither case can you win unless you are the boss or the government.

But within the world of work there are some jobs which are more desirable than others because they are cleaner, or the hours are shorter for the basic rate, or the money is better—for the most part in the work situation women end up in the bottom scales—they are likely to be working in low paid jobs (cleaning, catering, factories, nursing) as unskilled workers and in part time work (least protected workers).

Women workers are also hardest hit by the recession and more likely to be unemployed. But because if they are married they receive no benefits, less likely to sign on.

Why do women end up in this situation? Partly because of lack of encouragement in school and at home to go on and get qualifications because their destiny is seen as marriage and partly because most higher positions in the workforce hierarchy are held by men who largely don't take women seriously because women's first responsibility is always seen as the home and not the workplace.

The women's movement sees women's access to the workplace on equal terms with men as important because only when women have economic independence can they act as individuals in their own right. The campaigns for the Equal Pay Act and Sex Discrimination Act were attempts to change the position of women in society especially in the workplace but after 5 years in operation they have done precious little for women because they were full of loopholes and because laws change nothing when society's bosses don't really want to change...all the two acts did was to keep women quiet for a while.

Perhaps though we should be asking do we want to be equal to men in exploitation—do we want to produce useless goods like nuclear weapons or power plants that are going to destroy not only ourselves but the human race and probably all life on this planet, or to mine asbestos or any of the other materials likely to kill us.

Asking for equality in the workplace is only a temporary reform—real equality comes when all socially useful activity is regarded as work and rewarded equally. That means that childcare, housework, cleaning the roads are seen as just as im-

portant and as useful to society as brain surgery or whatever—which means a new type of society.

Reforms in the workplace will help some women and men but ultimately only real change will mean equality.

## CHILDCARE

There are still only five full day care nurseries for the under fives in Northern Ireland, all of them privately run. There are few registered child minders, less than 5% of under fives nursery school places and no hope for any improvement in the future. Legislation like the Employment Protection Acts and Sex Discrimination Act is hardly a gain for women if there are no childcare facilities.

Women have to rely heavily on relatives, neighbours and friends to look after their young children. They enrol them early into primary school (70% of 4 year olds in primary school) enslaving them in a daily schedule which is too much to expect from such young children or any child for that matter. At a time when they should be playing co-operatively together, sharing skills, experiences, tantrums and tears, they are deposit boxes for formal studies, competitiveness and individualism.

## PROPOSED DAY CARE CENTRES

The Lower Crescent group are still waiting funding to start their day care centre and the proposed Markets day care centre hasn't opened yet although having received an EEC grant it looks more hopeful.

## CONTRACEPTIVES

Available free yet not freely available.

Different religions, notably Catholicism, have a strong line on this issue and this is reflected in the views of Northern Irish women. Although under the British health service, contraceptives are free to anyone over the age of sixteen, in Northern Ireland, knowledge of contraception and how to get it is poor: sex education in schools or in the home is at best confined to the biology class and usually non-existent, many believing it encourages 'sex before marriage' and sleeping around. The number of unwanted pregnancies and women going to England for abortions rises each year.

The Catholic church with its eunuch priests and its nuns educate girls in some Catholic secondary schools on why contraception is wrong and most Catholic schools show films on abortion and the 'murdering of innocent babies'.

Catholicism pervades other areas of family planning as well. In Newry, for example, there are only one or two chemists who sell contraceptives over the counter and Catholic doctors opposed to contraception are not forthcoming with help and advice: there is only one family planning clinic in a population of Women all over Northern Ireland are generally referred to the Health clinics and FPA clinics by their GPs who are often ill informed on contraceptive methods and what is best for the individual woman, irrespective of the doctor's religion.



There is no safe and effective contraceptive. What with more research on the pill, IUD, various suppositories and creams, and the research on the rhythm method which concludes that a higher percentage of abnormal babies are born using this method because the woman has conceived at the end of the "unsafe" period when the egg is old and deteriorating, we are constantly aware of the risks we are taking with our own bodies. Yet when we complain to our doctors, we are treated as neurotic and unco-operative patients—how many times I have been asked if I am a nurse!—even though medical research is proving us to be right all along.

There has only ever been one self help group in Belfast (in the early 70s) and there is an increasing need for more where we can share our problems, exchange treatments and support each other.

## ABORTION

Abortion is a topic not often discussed in Northern Ireland. At the present time abortion is illegal here except in a few very narrow cases and most women wanting abortion must travel to England meaning extra worry and more money—around £200 for travel, accommodation, counselling and abortion. For many this is often impossible and women either have the child, or, go to the backstreet. Eighteen months ago one woman Charlotte Hutton, died as a result of such an abortion, and many women have faced complications or sterility in the same situation. Other women have abandoned their babies shortly after birth—in the last year 3 babies (all dead) have been discovered abandoned here—one can only guess at the anguished and dreadful situation of women who feel forced to abandon their babies in this way.

Until there is 100% effective contracep-



# OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT



tion a woman's control of her own fertility will need the back up of abortion services. But a real choice will only exist when women can have children without stigma, when having a child will not affect your work/career, your very being. Today abortion is often a necessity because of the pressures of having a child alone, of having little money (single parents are one of the largest single poverty groups), or the impossibility of keeping one more child in a larger family.

The women's movement is not advocating abortion for every woman BUT CHOICE—every child a wanted child, every mother a willing mother, in a society which genuinely cares for and has responsibilities towards its children not just paying these phrases lip service, but in a material way.

## EDUCATION

Education is a form of social control. It is designed to educate children to the 'right' values of society—to make them obedient, to respect authority, to keep good time—all of these will be useful in later life when they go to work or set up families and pass the values down to their children.

Education also passes on values about behaviour especially the behaviour expected of boys and girls—boys to be masculine, girls feminine, and although most children do arrive in primary one with already formed ideas about boys and girls—education will spend the next 11 years reinforcing and underlining those ideas.

If you look at reading books like Peter and Jane, Janet and John, the girls are always the passive ones, they are always looking at John or Peter DOING things and help Mummy in the house while the boys have fun. In the classroom, teachers reinforce this by getting the girls to do traditionally feminine jobs like cleaning the tables and clearing away whilst the boys lift the milkcrates, rearrange the tables etc. This all extends into lessons so

that by 15-16 boys are far more likely to do applied and scientific subjects and girls to go for the arts or languages. In exams though girls generally get higher passes in O and A levels, less go onto university and further education although they have the ability.

In recent years due to pressure schools have tried to break these barriers down but education REFLECTS the society in which it is found and to that end, our education mirrors a largely sexist, hierarchical, competitive and exploitative society—again without a real change in society, change in education with any real meaning is impossible.

## VIOLENCE

Why do men have so much contempt for women?

Take domestic violence: its brutal. Women are beaten up or are threatened with a beating. They are harassed and humiliated and often weapons are used. Two women were beaten to death in Belfast last year.

Take rape: women are seen to be asking for it. They invite rape by being "feminine young and blonde", a myth perpetuated by male society and played up by the press.

Take women prisoners: they have been beaten, slapped about the head with threats of sexual humiliation to gain so called 'confessions'. They are denied proper medical care, (a couple of sanitary towels for each period), proper ante-natal care, harassment and humiliation from male screws.

It is too easy to blame the system—men are exploited, alienated so they take it out on women or he was unemployed, lived in bad housing and got in with the wrong crowd etc etc. This view legitimizes the myth that only the underprivileged assault women. Men of all ages, of all classes, all positions in society including that of power over other men, assault all women. Violence against women is a universal and age old behaviour. All men have the power to terrorise women in our society—to this extent they are each responsible for their own acts of violence.

## Women's Aid

There are now 4 refuges in Northern Ireland and they are all overcrowded and barely financed by the Social Services. Successive Unionist housing policy for sixty years and the now heavily burdened and under financed Housing Executive has meant a severe housing shortage (Women may have to wait up to six months even though they are put on the emergency housing lists) and the sectarianism here has forced women back into areas where they are still at risk from the same men. There are two advice centres in Belfast run by Women's Aid to give women help, information and solidarity.

## Reclaim the Night

There have been two reclaim the night marches in Belfast, called in response to specific rapes, one in South Belfast

and one in West Belfast, and the continuing violence and harassment in society against women.

## Rape Crisis Centre

Talks are under way for the setting up of a rape crisis centre in Belfast.

## LAW

Someone once said "that the law like the Ritz was open to everyone". There is a lot of truth in that statement, the poorer less privileged you are the harder the law is on you—the richer you are and the more contacts you have the easier it is. Consequently, most people who end up in prison come from working class backgrounds while the 'crimes' of exploitation and robbing of working people in its various legal forms goes unheeded.

One thing to remember about the law is that it always works in the interests of the established power in any society—law is another form of social control. Consequently when the law is reformed or changed it is done for a purpose—either to keep people quiet or to give the illusion that change is taking place.

Even if 'law' did work to bring about equality Northern Ireland has always lagged behind Britain in terms of social legislation (eg the Abortion Act and Homosexuality Bills brought into Britain in the 1960s were never made law here), the Domestic Proceedings Act, the Divorce Reform Act came in much later with Direct rule and the EPA and SDA have not been tested here as in Britain.

In Northern Ireland the establishment—the ruling class and the churches oppose social reform because they refuse to let go total control of population in ALL matters go out of their hands. But even if the laws here were exactly the same as Britain would it make much difference, in fact does reforming the law ultimately change things?

Basically it doesn't. Real change comes about not by changing the law but in the practice of society—for instance the race relations acts do not stop people being racist nor the existence of groups like the National Front—similarly with the EPA and SDA which have not been successful because of entrenched positions opinions which remain unchanged and the inability of the male dominated and elitist legal system to bring about change because it would affect their positions of prestige. That is why change in the law only becomes effective when it directly challenges the powers that be and the powers that be are not interested in changing the law to the extent that it would do that—we are therefore caught in a vicious circle.

## SEXUALITY

We live in a society which controls us not just socially but also sexually. We are brought up, especially in Northern Ireland to see marriage and the family as the proper place for sexual behaviour. This both reinforces the family and often due

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# EVENTS

## WOMEN'S AID—EVENTS OVER INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK

### Wednesday morning: 4th March

Protest outside the headquarters of Eastern Board, 65 University Street at their decision to defer a grant of £5,000 for the new refuge in North Belfast to meet the fire and health regulations. Women's Aid have already raised £11,000 of the money themselves.

### Thursday morning: 5th March 11.30pm

Protest at Housing Executive offices at back of City Hall for the continual hassle that battered women have to put up with to get a house. This can mean producing medical reports, proving cruelty, solicitors letters, police reports, legal separation proof. Social workers reports are not accepted

### Saturday morning: 7th March

Caravan in Cornmarket. Women's Aid (all volunteers welcome) will be giving out leaflets on the New Domestic Violence Order which came in on Dec. 1st and has not been given adequate coverage. A battered woman can now get an exclusion order to keep her husband out of not only the house but the street or area as well. One such exclusion order was served on a man from Ballymurphy. She can get a Personal Protection Order for herself as well. In cases of emergency this will take only a day to come through—a woman goes to her JP

and then to a magistrate. Even though the house is solely in the man's name he can still be excluded and have to face the possibility of paying the mortgage, rent, rates and general upkeep of the house.

**Armagh Picket Sunday 8th March. Buses leave Dunville Park at 1pm.**

### PEGGY SEEGER CONCERT

7th March at 7.30pm McMordie Hall Queens University, Adm.£2—should be a good night! Tickets available from Just Books.

### RALLY IN CORNMARKE

Saturday March 7th at 2.00pm  
Topic: Women and Health.

### CONFERENCE IN WEST BELFAST

Workshops on women's role in the H Block committees. on Armagh and on other aspects of women's oppression in Ireland. Speaker from CAP and speaker on Payment for Debt Act. Video on Ex Prisoners and statement from women in Armagh prison to be read out on medical conditions, in Divis Community Centre 11.30-5.00pm  
Creche and food available.

### TALK

The Law, Women, Gay men and Lesbians  
Barrister to speak. 11th March at 7.30pm  
Conference Room, QUB.

## Belfast Women's Centre

*The Women's Centre was opened over a year ago by the Northern Ireland Women's Rights Movement with a grant from the City Council. Since then the centre has become a meeting place for many groups including Women's Aid, Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign, the Rape Crisis Group as well as the Northern Ireland Women's Rights group themselves. The centre is open to all feminist groups and meetings and meetings there are generally open to all.*

*Recently, the NIWRM have managed to get a grant of £2,000. They have decided to use this to employ a part time worker for the centre so that it will be open six days a week and so become used even more than at present. They hope to supplement the money with money from the Peggy Seeger concert they have organised on March 7th. So they are hoping for a large turnout. If you are interested in applying for the job (see box below) or in helping in the women's centre generally contact them at 43363 or see to 18 Donegall Street, Belfast.*



**Anarchism  
Feminism  
Socialism  
Syndicalism  
JUST BOOKSISM  
7 Winetavern St.  
SMITHFIELD Ph 25426**

### **PART TIME WORKER FOR WOMEN'S CENTRE**

to open centre during week days, general administration and advice work. Interested?  
Send SAE to NIWRM, 18 Donegall Street, Belfast.  
for job description and further details.

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to the lack of sex education in schools leads to frustration and many teenage marriages for young people long before they have had time to come to terms with their growing ideas about life and love and sex. Sex is taboo here, precisely because a society where sexuality is freely expressed is a free society and that is not what the state wants.

In most areas of our lives, particularly the social, our society could hardly be accused of being receptive to new ideas, yet alone change, and so it is hardly surprising that women are seen in very traditional roles at work and in the home. Women's magazines, television, the role of women in the present political situation,

alternative and feminist literature, have all to more or lesser degrees brought more discussion of sexual matters and women's assigned role in society, but the women's movement, although growing, is very small and opinions very entrenched and against women being total and separate human beings.

Women are demanding more rights, mainly through reforms from the state, and to some extent they have been accepted, although any threat has been absorbed and neutralized within the male definition of women's role.

We are constantly being bombarded with how to be a woman: what uniform to wear this season (a skill which most women are not given enough credit for!)

and how we should perform as women. The fact that most of us can't make it or get married and adopt another role model, ending up either way feeling inferior and self hating, is as important a role as those few who manage to carry off the act successfully.

Lesbians only exist when it benefits the state for them to do so—in custody cases over children for example—and even in the left press they are not given credit. At the Armagh picket on International Women's Day last year, the republican and authoritarian left failed to report that a major number of the women who came over from England to support the prisoners were lesbians and it has never featured articles discussing lesbianism.